

Intercontinental Terminals Company (ITC) Fire Morning Update
Deer Park, Texas
March 28, 2019 1200 – March 29, 2019 0400

- On March 17, 2019, in response to a tank fire at the ITC, federal, state and local agencies joined ITC in a Unified Command. Multiple agencies including the United States Coast Guard, the TCEQ, and Harris County Pollution Control Services supported the response effort.
- As of 8:30 pm on March 28, 2019, ITC had recovered 36,611.6 barrels (bbls) of material from on-water operations. As of 6:00 pm on March 28, 2019, 40,385 bbls of material had been recovered from the tank farm. Approximately 128 cubic yards of contaminated solids (personal protective equipment (PPE), boom, and absorbent pads) had been removed.
- On March 28, 2019, tanks 80-2 and 80-3 were emptied into secondary containment and into the 80s separator. Tank 80-2 was estimated to have approximately 5,400 bbl remaining prior to having the sump line opened. Tank 80-3 was estimated to have 5,400 bbl of material remaining in it, prior to the opening of its sump line. At 8:30 pm on March 28, 2019, emptying of tanks 80-14 and 80-15 had begun.
- At 10:00 pm on March 28, 2019, ITC expressed concerns to TCEQ and EPA about overflowing the secondary containment due to draining operations and foaming operations on tanks. Pumping out of the containment cannot keep up with the draining of tanks. TCEQ and EPA advised ITC that it would be acceptable to pump the material into their wastewater tanks in an emergency, but that the material would be disposed of as waste, and not run through their treatment plant. ITC agreed to that option.
- As of March 29, 2019, ITC Deer Park has not resumed operations, and does not have an estimated date of when they may resume operations.
- Foaming of the secondary containment, to prevent reignition and reduce emissions, continues as necessary.
- Several entities including TCEQ, EPA, the 6th Civil Support Team (CST), and ITC continue to conduct air monitoring around the tank farm, in adjoining industrial areas, and communities downwind from the facility.
- On March 28, 2019, the Strike Team, comprised of CST on behalf of TCEQ, EPA, and CTEH were sent to the areas around Channelview (north of the site) due to elevated readings of benzene during the night. Unified Command and Harris County were kept apprised of the readings. No readings were sustained over 1.0 ppm of benzene.
- EPA conducted air sampling using the Trace Atmospheric Gas Analyzer (TAGA) on March 28, 2019. The TAGA analyzed the air samples for benzene, toluene and xylene. The TAGA air sampling results were compared to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) short-term Air Monitoring Comparison Values (AMCVs) and found no exceedances of the short-term AMCVs for benzene, toluene and xylene.
- EPA conducted handheld air monitoring from March 28, 2019 (12:00 pm) to March 29, 2019 (4:00 am) at 49 locations in areas located west and northwest of the Site as well as Buffalo Bayou. Results were reported above the detection limit at five locations for total volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and four locations for benzene. Benzene was detected at two of these locations above the short-term AMCVs for benzene (0.18 ppm). EPA will conduct additional air monitoring and deploy the Trace Atmospheric Gas Analyzer (TAGA) to determine if the short-term AMCV for benzene continues to be exceeded.
- ITC continued air monitoring on March 28 (midnight to midnight); there were 3,447 VOC readings (615 detections) with and 2,416 benzene readings (552 detections).
- TCEQ continued handheld air monitoring between 2:00 pm and 10:00 pm on March 28 (34 readings). No significant readings were detected.
- Unified Command developed, reviewed, and approved the Incident Action Plan (#7) for the next operational period.
- Vacuum truck operations at Tucker Bayou and the outfall ditch continue on a 24-hour basis.

Additional Information: Air Monitoring and Water Sampling locations:

